

# Semiclassical eigenstates of four-sublattice antiferromagnets

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Applying Bohr-Sommerfeld quantization and the topological phase of spin path integrals, one can determine the multiplicities, lattice symmetries, and eigenvalue clustering pattern of the low-lying singlet eigenstates of the triangular and fcc antiferromagnets with 4-sublattice classical ground states. In the triangular case, the clustering pattern agrees with numerical results of Lecheminant *et al* (Phys. Rev. B 52, 6647 (1995)).

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How can one identify the long-range order of an extended quantum system from exact diagonalizations that are severely constrained by finite-size effects? The commonest analysis is to extrapolate the ground-state correlations and energy gaps infinite size. An alternative approach uses the finite-size splittings and symmetries of an entire family of low-lying states to characterize possible symmetry breaking. [1,2] In the latter spirit, we present a semiclassical calculation of the low-lying singlet eigenstates and eigenenergies of four-sublattice Heisenberg antiferromagnets, assuming long-range order in the  $N \rightarrow \infty$  limit (where  $N$  is the number of spins). The Hamiltonian is

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}}(\{\mathbf{s}_i\}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} J(\mathbf{r}_{ij}) \mathbf{s}_i \cdot \mathbf{s}_j \quad (1)$$

where spin  $\mathbf{s}_i$  has quantum spin length  $s$ , and  $\mathbf{r}_{ij}$  is the vector connecting sites  $i$  and  $j$ . By “four-sublattice” antiferromagnet, we mean one for which a classical ground state is any state with spins parallel within each of the four (equivalent) sublattices, and the vector sum of their sublattice magnetizations zero. Important examples are the triangular antiferromagnet [2,3], with  $J_1 > 0$  and second-neighbor coupling  $J_2 \in (J_1/8, J_1)$ , and the Type I fcc antiferromagnet [4,5] with  $J_1 > 0, J_2 < 0$ . After allowing for rotations, there is still a two-parameter family of classical ground states. [3–5].

These special degeneracies will get split in a fashion characteristic of four-sublattice order, producing a characteristic pattern of low-lying eigenstates. To derive this pattern, we will map the system (approximately) into a 4-spin one, and in turn to a sort of one-spin system, very much like the well-known cubic-symmetry molecular rotor [6,7]. Using Bohr-Sommerfeld (BS) quantization of classical orbits to define energies, which are split by tunneling between the classical orbits, we predict below a characteristic pattern of level clustering in accord with the numerical data [2] for the triangular case with  $N = 28$ , the largest size studied to date.

Let  $\mathcal{L}_\alpha$  be the set of  $\tilde{N} \equiv N/4$  sites in sublattice  $\alpha$  ( $\alpha = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ). The sublattice magnetizations are four big spins  $\mathbf{S}_\alpha \equiv \sum_{i \in \mathcal{L}_\alpha} \mathbf{s}_i$ . Inspired by the classical ground states, we will define “four-spin” states as those in which (i) each  $\mathbf{S}_\alpha$  has maximum total spin length  $|\mathbf{S}_\alpha| = \tilde{S} \equiv$

$\tilde{N}s$ ; (ii) the total (quantum) spin  $\mathbf{S}_{tot} \equiv \sum_\alpha \mathbf{S}_\alpha$  is zero (singlet). This is the low-energy singlet subspace, as first recognized by Lecheminant *et al* [2,8]. It has  $2\tilde{S} + 1$  independent quantum states.

Our first goal is a reduced Hamiltonian acting only on four-spin states. We first obtain an infinite-range version of (1) – *i.e.*, every spin interacts equally with every spin of a different sublattice – by replacing each  $\mathbf{s}_i \rightarrow \mathbf{S}_\alpha/\tilde{N}$  in  $\hat{\mathcal{H}}$ , where  $i \in \mathcal{L}_\alpha$ :

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{inf} = \frac{1}{2} \tilde{J}_0 \mathbf{S}_{tot}^2 - \frac{1}{2} \tilde{J} \left( \sum_\alpha \mathbf{S}_\alpha^2 \right) \quad (2)$$

where  $\tilde{J}_0 \equiv (3\tilde{N})^{-1} \sum_{\mathbf{r}}^{diff} J(\mathbf{r})$ ,  $\tilde{J} \equiv \tilde{J}_0 - \tilde{N}^{-1} \sum_{\mathbf{r}}^{same} J(\mathbf{r})$ . (Here “same” and “diff” mean the sums are restricted to interactions connecting the same or different sublattices.) In the triangular case  $\tilde{J} = \tilde{J}_0 = 2(J_1 + J_2)/\tilde{N}$ .

The “four-spin” states (having  $\mathbf{S}_{tot} = 0$  and maximum  $|\mathbf{S}_\alpha|$ ) are manifestly the only ground states of  $\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{inf}$ , having energy  $E_{inf} = -2\tilde{J}\tilde{S}(\tilde{S} + 1)$ . Their degeneracy is broken by an effective Hamiltonian  $\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{sel}(\{\mathbf{S}_\alpha\})$  which “selects” particular ground states; this will be crudely approximated by a phenomenological biquadratic form

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{biq} \equiv -\tilde{K} \sum_{\alpha < \beta} (\mathbf{S}_\alpha \cdot \mathbf{S}_\beta)^2 + \tilde{C}_{biq} \quad (3)$$

with  $\tilde{K} > 0$ .

Eq. (3) can be derived from  $\delta\hat{\mathcal{H}} \equiv \hat{\mathcal{H}} - \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{inf}$  by either of two perturbative approaches. First, in the large- $s$  limit, and after the usual Holstein-Primakoff expansion around a four-spin coherent state,  $\delta\hat{\mathcal{H}}$  could be approximated by a harmonic Hamiltonian which is diagonalized by spin-wave states. The spin-wave zero-point energy, summed over all modes [9,10], can then be expressed as a function of the four spin directions. By general (“order due to disorder”) arguments, collinear (parallel or antiparallel) spin configurations have the lowest zero-point energy [9,10], and Eq. (3) is the simplest analytic form with this property [11,12].

Alternatively, Eq. (3) can be directly derived from second-order perturbation theory in  $\delta\hat{\mathcal{H}}$ . This approximation [13] (related to that of [11]) gives precisely the form (3), with

$$\tilde{K} = \frac{J_1^2 + J_2^2 - 2\tilde{N}^{-1}(J_1 + J_2)^2}{\tilde{N}\tilde{J}\tilde{S}(2\tilde{S} - 1)^2} \quad (4)$$

for the triangular case, and  $\tilde{C}_{biq} = -2\tilde{S}^2(5\tilde{S}^2 - 6\tilde{S} - 2)\tilde{K}$ . We caution that the (presumably large) quantum fluctuations within each sublattice ought to renormalize (4) by a substantial factor.

From here on we work with the effective four-spin Hamiltonian  $E_{inf} + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{biq}$ . The quantum eigenstates of  $\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{biq}$  will be approached semiclassically; that is valid in a moderately large system even for  $s = 1/2$ , since  $\tilde{S} = \tilde{N}s$  is the large parameter in  $\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{biq}$ . Our classical coordinates are the unit vectors  $\hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha$  that parametrize the four-spin coherent states, constrained (just like four-sublattice classical ground states) only by  $\sum_\alpha \hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha = 0$ . It will be useful to define coherent states  $|\{\hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha\}\rangle$  for the four-spin problem, meaning each  $\mathbf{S}_\alpha$  has maximum projection in the direction  $\hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha$ . There are competing prescriptions to derive the effective classical Hamiltonian  $U_{biq}$  from  $\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{biq}$ , which disagree after the leading power in  $\tilde{S}$ ; we adopt [14,15]

$$\langle \{\hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha\} | \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{biq} | \{\hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha\} \rangle = U_{biq}(\{\hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha\}) + C_U, \quad (5)$$

where

$$U_{biq}(\{\hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha\}) = -K_U \sum_{\alpha < \beta} (\hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha \cdot \hat{\mathbf{m}}_\beta)^2 \quad (6)$$

with  $K_U = \tilde{S}^2(\tilde{S} - 1/2)^2 \tilde{K}$  and  $C_U = \tilde{S}^2(6\tilde{S} + 5/2)\tilde{K} + \tilde{C}_{biq}$ .

Now, the Green's function of such a system can be expressed as a path integral, [14,15] in which each path is weighted as usual by

$$\exp \left[ \int dt U_{biq}(\{\hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha\}) - \Phi \right] \quad (7)$$

where the *topological phase* of the path is given by

$$\Phi = \sum_{\alpha=1}^4 \tilde{S} \Omega(\{\hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha(t)\}), \quad (8)$$

where  $\Omega(\{\hat{\mathbf{m}}(t)\})$  means the spherical area the trajectory  $\hat{\mathbf{m}}(t)$  has swept out on the unit sphere about its “north pole” [16]. The classical dynamics is

$$d\hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha/dt = \gamma \hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha \times \delta U_{biq}(\{\hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha\})/d\hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha. \quad (9)$$

The dynamics in the 5-dimensional subspace  $\sum \hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha = 0$  is separable by a change of variables from  $\{\hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha\}$  to a unit vector  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$  and a proper rotation matrix  $\mathcal{R}$  defined as follows. Let  $\mathbf{n}_\mu \equiv \frac{1}{2}(\hat{\mathbf{m}}_\mu + \hat{\mathbf{m}}_4)$ ,  $\mu = 1, 2, 3$  [5]; these three vectors are orthogonal as follows from  $\sum \hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha = 0$ . The proper rotation matrix  $\mathcal{R}$  is defined to align these vectors (in either sense) along the respective coordinate axes  $\hat{\mathbf{e}}_\mu$ , so  $\mathbf{n}_\mu \equiv n_\mu \hat{\mathbf{e}}_\mu$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{n}} \equiv (n_1, n_2, n_3)$  is a unit vector. A

discrete redundancy remains, that  $\mathcal{R}$  is well defined only up to a  $\pi$  rotation of  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$  about any coordinate axis.

We are finally interested in the *singlet projection* of the coherent states, which is equivalent to averaging over all  $\mathcal{R}$  (with correct phase factors). This singlet basis is labeled only by  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$ ; it is important for the sequel that  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$ 's related by the redundancy correspond to *identical* singlet-projected basis states.

Substituting from (6) shows the Hamiltonian depends only on  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$ :

$$U_{biq}(\hat{\mathbf{n}}) = -8K_U \sum_{\mu=1}^3 (n_\mu)^4 + 2K_U \quad (10)$$

When (9) is translated into the coordinates  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$  and  $\mathcal{R}$ , it turns out that  $d\mathcal{R}/dt \equiv 0$  while  $d\hat{\mathbf{n}}/dt = \gamma' \hat{\mathbf{n}} \times \delta U_{biq}/\delta \hat{\mathbf{n}}$ , identical to the classical dynamics of *one* spin with Hamiltonian (10), i.e., a cubic anisotropy field; these classical orbits follow contours of constant energy on the unit  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$  sphere, in the sense indicated by the arrows in Fig. 1. Furthermore, each  $\hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha(t)$  traces out the same shaped trajectory and makes the same contribution to the sum (8). Hence, the total topological phase  $\Phi = 4\tilde{S}\Omega(\{\hat{\mathbf{n}}(t)\})$  is the same as that of *one* spin with length  $S \equiv 4\tilde{S} = Ns$ . In (only) this sense, we have mapped a four-spin to a one-spin problem.

*Bohr-Sommerfeld orbits and tunnel splittings* — We can identify three kinds of classical ground state with high symmetry, corresponding to the special points indicated on the  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$  sphere in Fig. 1: (i) The “collinear” (*C*) states, with all spin directions  $\hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha$  oriented along the same direction (two being parallel to it, and the other two antiparallel); these are the ground states of  $U_{biq}$ . There are three *C* states (since there are three ways to group the spins  $\{\hat{\mathbf{m}}_\alpha\}$  into pairs). On the unit  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$  sphere,  $C_{X,Y,Z}$  lie along the  $\pm x$ ,  $\pm y$  and  $\pm z$  coordinate axes; these six points really correspond to three distinct states in view of the discrete redundancy. (ii) “Tetrahedral” (*T*) states in which the spins point towards the corners of a regular tetrahedron in spin space, the maximum energy states of  $U_{biq}$ . There are two *T* states since there is a right-handed and a left-handed way of orienting the tetrahedron. These correspond to points  $(\pm 1, \pm 1, \pm 1)/\sqrt{3}$  on the  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$  sphere, corresponding to only two distinct states after applying the discrete degeneracy. (iii) “Saddle” or “square” (*S*) states, in which the four spin directions lie in the same plane in spin space and differ by  $90^\circ$  rotations; these are saddle-points of the  $U_{biq}$  function. The corresponding values of  $U_{biq}$  (using (6) are  $U_C = -6K_U$ ,  $U_S = -2K_U$ , and  $U_T = -\frac{2}{3}K_U$ .

The BS quantization condition [14] selects orbits around *T* with energies  $U_{biq}(\hat{\mathbf{n}}) = U_T$  such that  $\Phi = 2\pi l$  for  $l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ . However, the BS condition for the energy  $U_{Cl}$  of a *C* type orbit is that the complete loop has phase  $\Phi = 4\pi l$ ; this is due to the redundancy of  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$ , whereby a *C* type orbit returns to an equivalent state

(and completes the true orbit) after looping just halfway around the C point. We will label each orbit by its BS quantum number  $l = 0, 1, \dots$  and by the label of the fixed point it encircles, thus “ $T_{l\gamma}$ ” (for  $\gamma = \pm$ , a twofold degeneracy) or “ $C_{l\gamma}$ ” (for  $\gamma = X, Y, Z$ , a threefold degeneracy.) See Fig. 1.

Each level cluster is built from BS orbits degenerate in energy. Depending upon the topological phase [17], tunneling may occur between these orbits and slightly split this degeneracy. Let’s write, e.g.,  $t_{Cl}(Y[c]X)$  to mean the total amplitude to “hop” from orbit  $C_{lX}$  to  $C_{lY}$  along paths which separate from  $C_{lX}$ , pass near saddle point  $S_c$ , and join onto  $C_{lY}$ . (In light of the discrete redundancy of  $\hat{n}$ , there was just one tunneling path connecting a pair of  $C$  orbits.) All symmetry-related hoppings have the same magnitude  $t_{Cl}$  but their phases depend on the “gauge” choice used in defining coherent states.

The hopping between the three BS states is just like that between three atomic orbitals in a ring threaded by a flux. The eigenenergies are  $U_{Cl} + 2|t_{Cl}|\cos((2\pi j - \text{Re}\Phi_{Cl})/3)$ , where  $j$  is any integer, and the gauge-invariant  $\text{Re}\Phi_{Cl}$  is the cyclic sum of the three phase angles. We will write “ $(\nu_1, \nu_2)$ ” for the pattern of eigenvalues in this cluster, meaning the (lower, higher) eigenvalues have degeneracies  $(\nu_1, \nu_2)$ , respectively.

So we just need to know  $t_{Cl}^3 e^{i\text{Re}\Phi_{Cl}} = t_{Cl}(Z[a]Y)t_{Cl}(Y[c]X)t_{Cl}(X[b]Z)$ , the amplitude for closed paths around the loop shown in Fig. 1(b). The stationary-phase trajectory, as shown in Fig. 1(b), follows orbit  $C_{lX}$  to a point along the “equator”, then crosses the classically forbidden barrier by following a trajectory with part *complex* coordinates and joins onto orbit  $C_{lY}$  such that  $U_{biq} \equiv U_{Cl}$  along the entire path [15]. Because the classically forbidden segments follow high symmetry lines, the real part of the spherical area enclosed (hence of  $\Phi_{Cl}$ ) is computed from the real part of the trajectory (shaded in the figure), and correspondingly for the imaginary parts. For example, the segment of stationary-phase path crossing  $S_c$  in Fig. 1 has  $\theta(\phi) = \pi/2 - i\text{Im}\theta(\phi)$ ; in the spherical area  $\Omega \equiv \oint d\phi(1 - \cos\theta(\phi))$ , the integrand for this segment has  $\cos\theta \rightarrow i\sinh(\text{Im}\theta)$ .

Thus  $\text{Re}\Phi_{Cl}$  is  $S$  times the spherical area enclosed by the loop shown in Fig. 1(b): *i.e.*  $S(4\pi/8) - 3(4\pi l/4)$ , where the second term comes from the arcs truncating the triangle corners in Fig. 1 (b). Thus  $e^{i\text{Re}\Phi_{Cl}} = (-1)^{S/2-3l}$ . Recalling that  $S \equiv Ns$ , we obtain a cluster pattern (2, 1) if  $Ns/2 - 3l$  is even or (1, 2) if it is odd. On the other hand,  $\text{Im}\Phi_{Cl}$  is just the WKB exponent appearing in the tunnel amplitude, thus  $t_{Cl} \sim e^{-\text{Im}\Phi_{Cl}/3}$ .

The case of  $T$  type orbits differs in that there are three distinct stationary-phase paths connecting orbits  $T_{l+}$  and  $T_{l-}$ . So, from the truncated-square loop shown in Fig. 1(c), we find  $t_{Tl}([b]-)^2 t_{Tl}(-[c]+)^2 = t_{Tl}^4 e^{i\text{Re}\Phi_{Tl}}$ , with  $\text{Re}\Phi_{Tl} = S(4\pi/6) - 4(2\pi l/3)$ . From the other loops related to it by symmetry, we get formulas with

$[b]\dots[c] \rightarrow [c]\dots[a] \rightarrow [a]\dots[b]$  as well, which give all the relative phases between the three different paths connecting orbit  $T_{l+}$  to  $T_{l-}$ . The total hopping is a sum over these paths,  $t_{Tl}^{\text{tot}} \equiv \sum_{p=a,b,c} t_{Tl}(-[p]+)$ , and the relative phases of these terms turn out to be 0,  $\pm\text{Re}\Phi_{Tl}$ . So when  $Ns - 4l$  is divisible by 3, then  $t_{Tl}^{\text{tot}} \neq 0$  and the cluster pattern is (1, 1) with splitting  $2|t_{Tl}^{\text{tot}}|$ ; otherwise,  $t_{Tl}^{\text{tot}} = 0$  and the cluster pattern is (2) (i.e., unsplit) [18].

The overall clustering pattern thus begins (starting with the ground state) with repeats of (2, 1)(1, 2) ... for  $C$  orbits – for odd  $Ns/2$ , the first cluster is (1, 2) – and turns into repeats of ... 2(1, 1)2 ... for the  $T$  orbits corresponding to the higher energies among the low-lying singlets. Amusingly, the sequence of degeneracies  $\{2, 1, 1, 2\}$  continues unbroken past the saddle-point energy  $U_S$ , so there is no sharp boundary between the two behaviors.

*Comparison to diagonalizations* – The spin-1/2 triangular system was exactly diagonalized by Ref. [2]. Table I shows the numerical data of Lecheminant *et al* [2] for the  $s = 1/2$  triangular antiferromagnet with  $(J_1, J_2) = (1, 0.7)$ , for  $N = 16$  and  $N = 28$ . All of their low-lying singlet energies are given, compared with our numerical predictions, as  $\Delta E$  (the difference  $E - E_{\text{inf}}$ ). Each row is one cluster, labeled in column 1 with the BS orbit from which it derives, and in parentheses the degeneracies of the levels in the cluster (from lowest to highest). The other columns give the mean energy of the cluster, and in brackets its tunnel splitting  $t_{Cl}$  or  $t_{Tl}^{\text{tot}}$  (if nonzero). The “4-spin” column is (3) with  $\tilde{K}$  given by (4); the “Theory” column is (5) and (10) with  $K_U$  given after (6). (In the absence of a theory for their prefactor, we estimated the “theory” splittings as  $t_{Cl} \rightarrow (8K_U)\exp(-S \text{Im}\Phi_{Cl}/3)$ , where  $\text{Im}\Phi_{Cl}/3 = 0.55$  for  $l = 0$  and 0.10 for  $l = 1$ .)

The eigenvalue clusters (which comprise all the low-energy states in these small systems) fall in exactly the pattern we predict. For  $N = 16$ , there is a near-cancellation in formula (4); this explains qualitatively why the whole energy scale is so small compared to  $N = 28$ , and why quantitative agreement between theory and experiment is not expected in the  $N = 16$  case. For  $N = 28$ , the cluster energies agree fairly well, apart from a constant offset which we cannot at present explain.

*Summary and discussion* – To conclude, we have identified two small energy scales among the low-lying singlet states in four-sublattice antiferromagnets, also indexing all of these eigenstates and explaining the observed pattern [2] of their energy splittings. The smallest splittings (of  $O(\exp(-\text{const}Ns))$ ) are explained by tunneling between different classical wells that result from discrete symmetry breakings; exact degeneracies occur when tunnel amplitudes summed along multiple paths cancel, owing to the topological phase. [17] The next smallest splittings between singlets in the  $N \leq 28$  systems are between clusters, i.e. between successive Bohr-Sommerfeld orbits. This spacing is proportional to the zero-point energy per

spin (favoring spin collinearity) which scales as a constant as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

We can, of course, predict cases which have not yet been diagonalized: *e.g.*, for  $s = 1/2$  in  $N = 32$  (fcc case) or  $N = 36$  (next larger triangular system), the cluster patterns are respectively  $(1, 2)(2, 1)1(2)$  and  $(2, 1)(1, 2)(2)(1, 1)$ .

For sufficiently large  $N$ , our assumption that spins in each sublattice stay rigidly aligned must fail during the tunnel event: the tunneling barrier will be smallest for an inhomogeneous quantum-nucleates and then grows.

Finally, it may be noted that our semiclassical treatment is exactly the same as that of a one-spin Hamiltonian with total angular momentum  $S$  and cubic anisotropy – exactly the Hamiltonian analyzed semiclassically [6,7] to account for the rotational spectroscopy of SF<sub>6</sub>. The eigenstate clusters in Table I are a subset of those in the one-spin system, as 3/4 of the latter have symmetries forbidden in our system (in view of the discrete redundancy of states labeled by  $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$ ).

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state of any term in  $\delta\hat{\mathcal{H}}$ , say  $(\mathbf{s}_i - \mathbf{S}_\alpha/\tilde{N}) \cdot (\mathbf{s}_j - \mathbf{S}_\beta/\tilde{N})$  with  $i \in \mathcal{L}_\alpha$ ,  $j \in \mathcal{L}_\beta$  (with  $\alpha \neq \beta$ ). It leaves  $\mathbf{S}_{tot} = 0$  but reduces  $|\mathbf{S}_\alpha|$  and  $|\mathbf{S}_\beta|$  to  $\tilde{S} - 1$ . Hence the second-order energy denominators are all  $2\tilde{J}S$ .

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TABLE I. Eigenenergies  $\Delta E$  for small systems

Orbit	Exact [2]	4-spin	Theory
	$N = 16$	$\tilde{S} = 2$	$S = 8$
$T_0(2)$	-0.151	-0.073	-0.0029
$C_0(1,2)$	-0.272(0.006)	-0.137 (0.0029)	-0.0323 (0.00065)
	$N = 28$	$\tilde{S} = 7/2$	$S = 14$
$T_0(2)$	-3.754	-1.919	-1.121
$C_1(1,2)$	-4.021 (0.017)	-2.336 (0.037)	-1.478 (0.34)
$C_0(2,1)$	-4.769 (0.0003)	-3.158 (0.0018)	-2.033 (0.00062)

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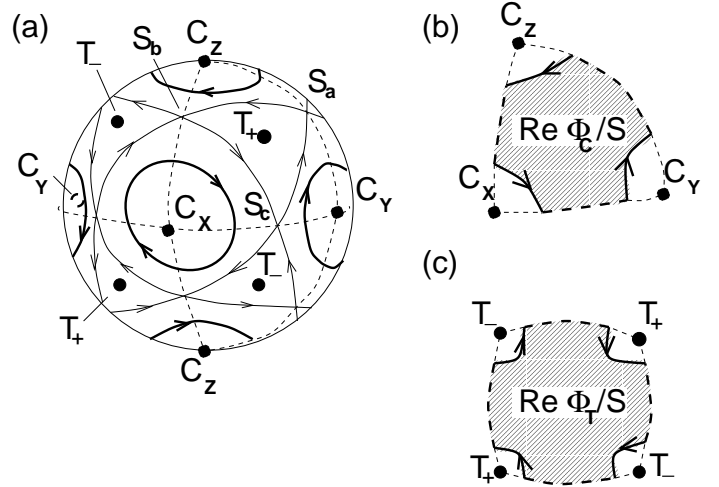


FIG. 1. Unit sphere representing a spin with classical orbits following contours of the Hamiltonian (10). Orbits  $C_{0\alpha}$  ( $\alpha = x, y, z$ ) and  $T_{0\pm}$  sit on the special symmetry points  $C_\alpha$  and  $T_\pm$  (indicated by dots); orbits  $C_{1\alpha}$  are shown by heavy lines, and separatrices connect the saddle points  $S_a, S_b, S_c$ . (The unmarked saddle points are equivalent to these by the redundancy mentioned in text.) (b). Loop for estimating tunneling amplitude  $t_{CI}$ ; the shaded spherical area is indicated. Heavy dashed portions are classically forbidden and contribute to  $\text{Im}(\Phi_C)$ . (c). Same but for  $t_{TI}$  type orbits. (This area has reversed sign since this loop runs clockwise.)